

FUSION



The PENUMBRA

WRITE TO: ECLIPSE COMICS - P.O. BOX 1099 - FORESTVILLE - CALIFORNIA - 95436

ON THE RACKS

SCOUT no. 23

Scout and Rosa hold the high ground against the Mexican invaders!

KAMUI nos. 8 & 9

The threats to Kamui's life continue in Japan's no. 1 ninja comic!

THE LIBERTY PROJECT no. 4

The Liberty Project attempts to recapture Nelson Aviation's new super-weapon!

AIRBOY nos. 29 & 30

Airboy, Hirota, Iron Ace and the Heap battle Manic and the Road Rats, as the siege of the monastery continues!

FUSION no. 5

Dow and the crew fight against terrible odds in the conclusion to the "Soulstar Commission!"

CALIFORNIA GIRLS no. 4

Find out how Smidgin became the smallest and most intelligent cat in the world. Plus, paper dolls galore!

AREA 88 nos. 8 & 9

Rumors of "gold" and a "crashed plane" send the Area 88 pilots on a foolhardy treasure hunt.

MAI THE PSYCHIC GIRL nos. 8 & 9

The extent of Mai's powers leads her to expect dire consequences.

STRIKE! no. 2

Dennis tests out his power suit. Plus, the original Sgt. Strike appears in a Golden Age reprint!

LOST PLANET no. 3

The power behind Zorrin's throne is unveiled and all hell breaks loose in Wylstman's Woods!

PROWLER no. 3

Scott and Leo enter the stronghold of zombie master Murder Legendere. Plus, the Prowler's 1930s origin continues!

CROSSFIRE no. 25

The story of the world's greatest stuntman and how he never once risked his life.

WINTERWORLD no. 1 (of 3)

New Series!

Scully's drifting life changes for the worse when he meets Wynn. Bold science fiction by Chuck "Airboy" Dixon and Jorge Zaffino.

ZOT! no. 14½

Antisocialman has turned Zot into... Anti-socialzot, and is now bent on turning the entire world Antisocial!

REID FLEMING, WORLD'S TOUGHEST MILKMAN no. 2 (2nd Printing)

Issue nos. 1 & 2 sold out! Reid is HOT! Here's your second chance, don't miss out!

TWISTED TALES no. 1 New Series!

Bruce Jones is back writing horror in this squarebound semi-annual title. Cover by Dave Stevens!

HAND OF FATE no. 1 New Series!

Mysterious fatal accidents at a lighthouse bring Artemus Fate, psychic detective, to investigate!

MIRACLEMAN no. 12

The history-making Book III continues! By Alan Moore and John Totleben.

DETECTIVES INC. no. 2 (of 3)

Denning and Rainier find adultery, greed, and murder in high society.

MAN OF WAR no. 2

Chicago is struck by a rash of street-walker murders, and all clues point to our hero!

QUICK TRIP THROUGH THE OFFICE: It's job realignment time again at the old hacienda, so here's the rundown in brief:

New Interns: John Defalque, a Hoosier journalism student, is our summer editorial department intern. Lynn Buckman, art teacher, interns in the production department.

New Job: Sean Deming has been promoted to Distribution Manager. This is on top of the jack-of-all-trades editing, production work and convention appearance organizing he's been handling for a couple of years. Sean is streamlining the distribution system and increasing our contact with fanzine editors, convention promoters, retailers and distributors. If you need to reach him on business matters call (707) 887-1521 and ask for him by name!

New Employee: Stephen Scott Beau Smith, once known as The Letterhack With the Longest Name in America, is now working for us as a Sales Representative, covering orders and re-orders around the country. This is in addition to his scripting duties on *Beau LaDuke's Tips for Real Men* in the Scout series. Beau Smith is the person Tim Truman based the Beau LaDuke character on, by the way, so you Scout readers already know just how handsome and manly this guy is!

Same Old Jobs: Letitia Glozer, Fred Burke and yours truly continue to rope together most of the editing around here, with Mack Fraga still Production Manager and Dean Mullaney still the Publisher (he's editing just a couple of titles also). Jan Mullaney, Madelyn Feinberg, and Bruce Palley are, as always, holding down the New York office. Other editors (Lex Nakashima, Ken Pierce, Tim Truman, Mark Evanier, April Campbell & Bruce Jones) carry on as usual.

Gosh, that was simple, wasn't it?

YOUR INPUT REQUESTED: Guess the whole world knows by now that our three bi-weekly Japanese manga titles are big sellers and the first few issues of each have gone into second printings. Most asked question of the summer is: "Are You Going To Be

Doing Any More Japanese Comics?" The answer is YES.

Second most asked question: "Which Ones?" Answer: YOU TELL US!

And that's exactly what I want you to do. Get a postcard and on it write the names of your THREE favourite Japanese manga. Send it to MANGA BALLOT, Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California 95436.

We cannot guarantee that the American publishing rights to the manga you request will be available, of course, but we intend to pursue the most-often-requested titles with an eye to bringing them to the United States before the year is over! So vote RIGHT NOW, while we're still in negotiation!

(Scoop of the Week: One of the three new mangas we publish will be a bi-weekly, and the other two will probably be monthlies.)

SUMMER POSTER OFFER: Once again we have printed a bunch of full-colour summer posters for your collection. There are seven of them, and all are available right now: *Kamui the Ninja*, *Area 88*, *Mai the Psychic Girl*, *Detectives Inc.*, *Sisterhood of Steel*, *California Girls* and *The 4Winds Line* (the latter is a BIG Tim Truman piece, with smaller cover repros along the bottom depicting *Prowler*, *Hotspur*, *The Scout Handbook*, *Strike!*, and *Winterworld*). This year we request that you order ALL SEVEN posters at once. They are FREE, but you pay postage. Just put \$1.07 in United States stamps on a 9 by 12 inch self-addressed manila envelope and send it to POSTER OFFER, Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California 95436. You'll be glad you did!

catherine yronwode
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FUSION™ no.5, September 1987. Published bi-monthly by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, CA 95436. catherine yronwode, Editor-in-Chief. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. FUSION story, art and columns ©1987 by LX, Ltd. FUSION, its characters and their distinctive likenesses™ and © by LX, Ltd. Dr. Watchstop ©1987 by Ken Macklin. All other material ©1987 by Eclipse Enterprises Inc. All rights reserved. Film by SM Graphics. For licensing information, contact Dean Mullaney.

ON THE SURFACE OF SKELOS A DEADLY BATTLE RAGES, ONE WHICH WILL END EITHER IN VICTORY OR EXTINCTION FOR THE ROYAL HOUSE OF THE CRYSTAL STATE.

A QUARTER MILLION MILES AWAY, IN A GRAVEYARD OF SHATTERED STEEL, CAPTAIN INDIO IS MISSING, BELIEVED DEAD.

BETWEEN THEM FLOATS THE TSUNAMI. HERE ITS CREW STRUGGLES WITH FATIGUE AND GRIEF, PREPARING ONE FINAL EFFORT.

ONLY A FEW MOMENTS REMAIN BEFORE THE LAST CARDS ARE TURNED, EXPOSING EITHER A TRUMP...

...OR A LEERING JOKER.

GAH!
THE FEEDBACK
ON THESE
NEUROLINKS IS
AWFUL!

KAY YOU
FINE! HAVE
MULTIPLE THREATS
AT EIGHT!

YOU NOT
SICK?

"THE SOULSTAR
COMMISSION"
PART V

URB!
Uh, NO.

JUST
REMEMBER
SICK-BAG IF WE
ZEE-GEE,
EY?

STEVEN BARNES
WRITER

LELA DOWLING/STEVE GALACCI
ARTISTS

LEX NAKASHIMA - CONCEPTUAL EDITOR

L. LOIS BUHALIS
LETTERER

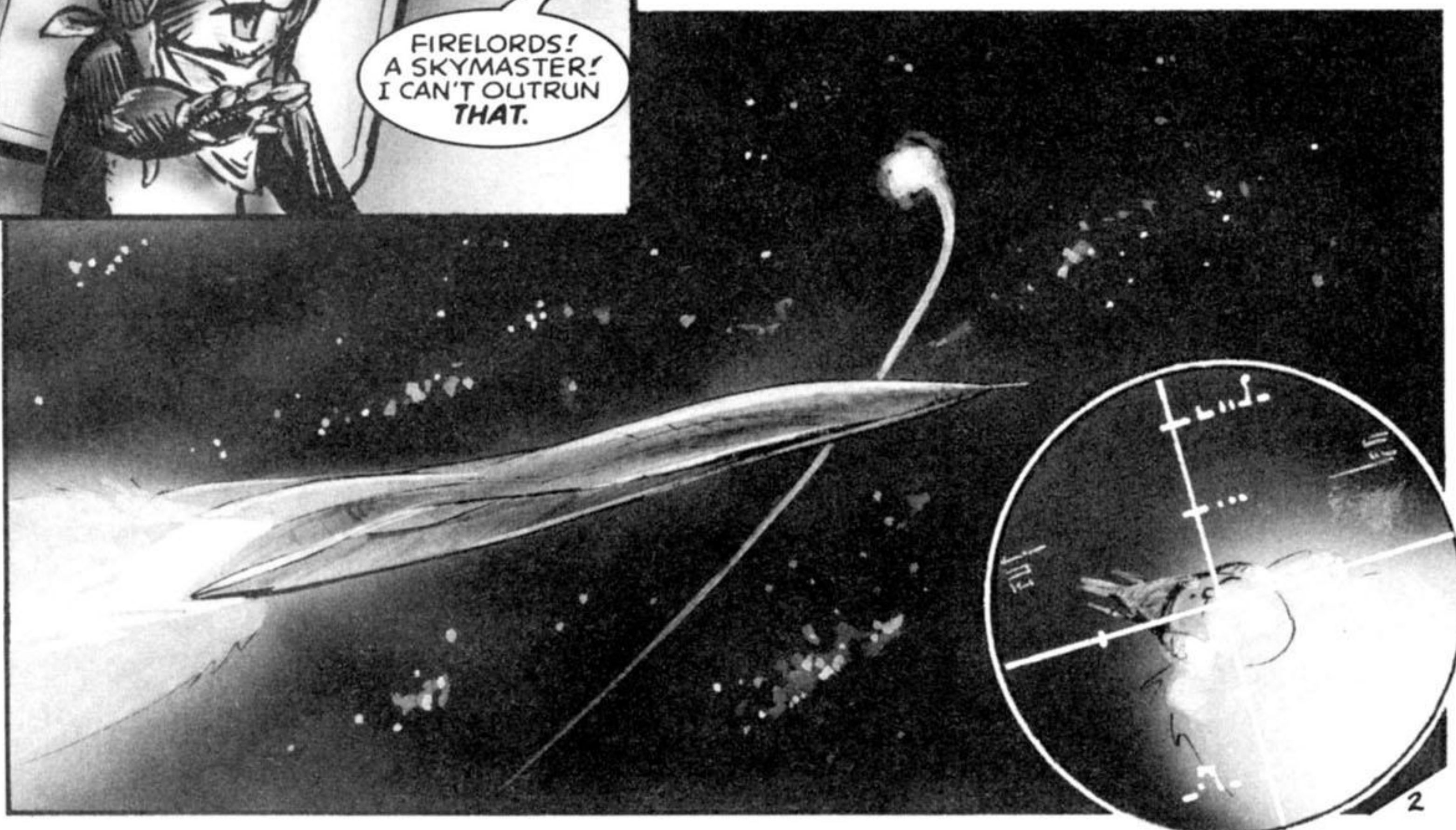
LETITIA GLOZER
EDITOR



WE RUN!
THESE SHORT-
RANGE SHIPS
WON'T PURSUE
TO HIGHER
ORBIT.



FIRELORDS!
A SKYMASTER!
I CAN'T OUTRUN
THAT.





ALL RIGHT, YOU SLACKERS. DID YOU FORGET EVERYTHING I EVER TAUGHT YOU?

WHAT!?



CAPTAIN!

I KNEW YOU TOO MEAN TO DIE!



HAVEN, WHAT CONDITION IS THAT ENGINE?

GOOD. WE HAVE RELAY SET UP. OVERLOAD, FIFTEEN MINUTES.

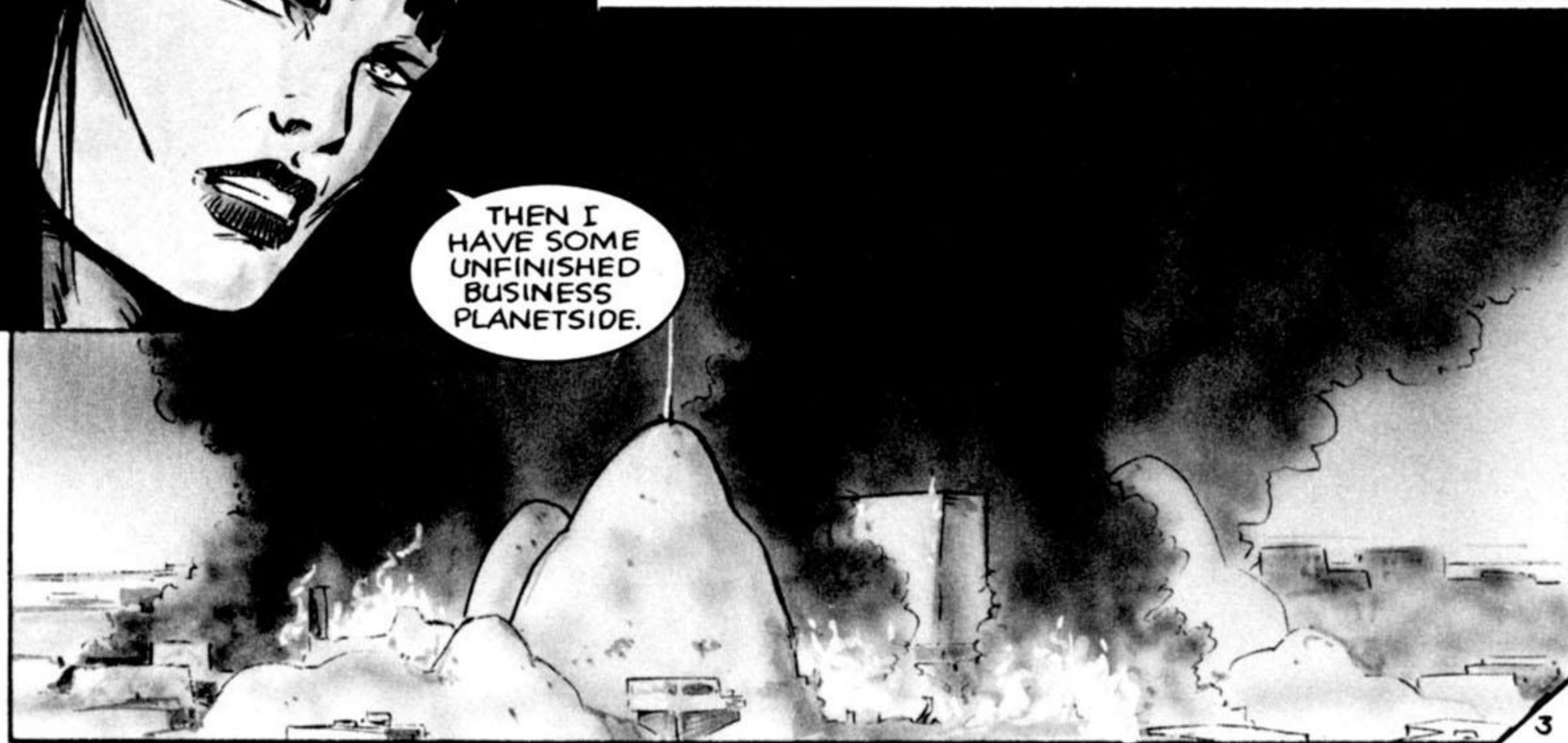


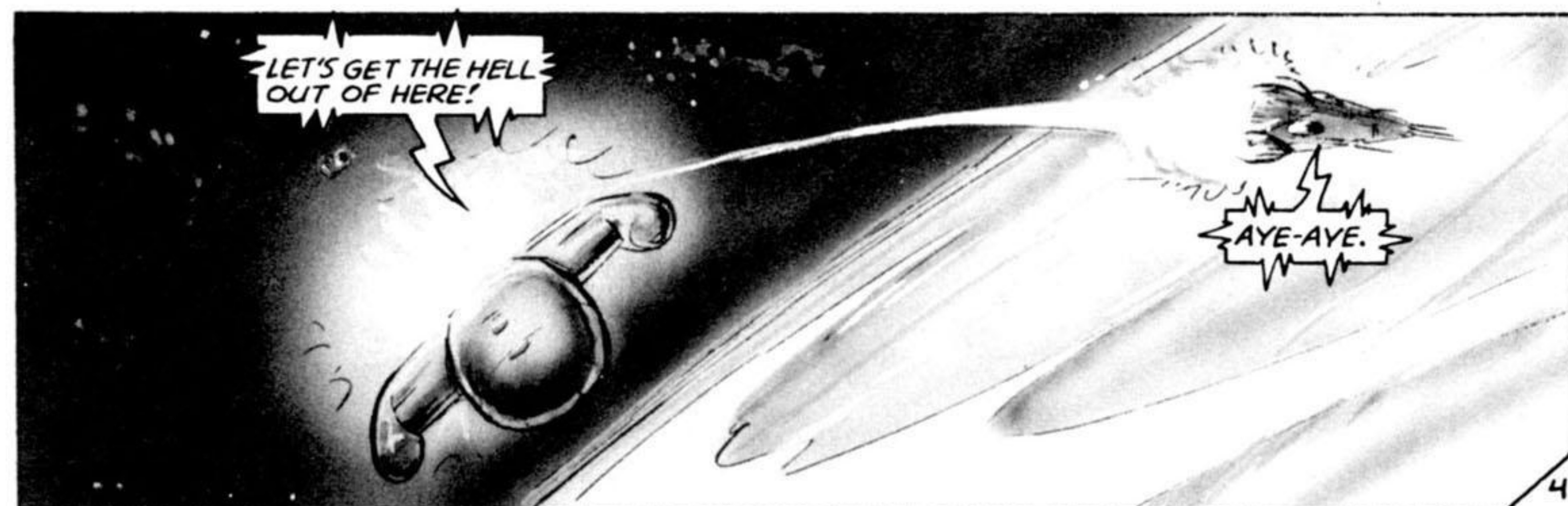
FINESTKIND, CAP'N. WELCOME BACK FROM GRAVE.

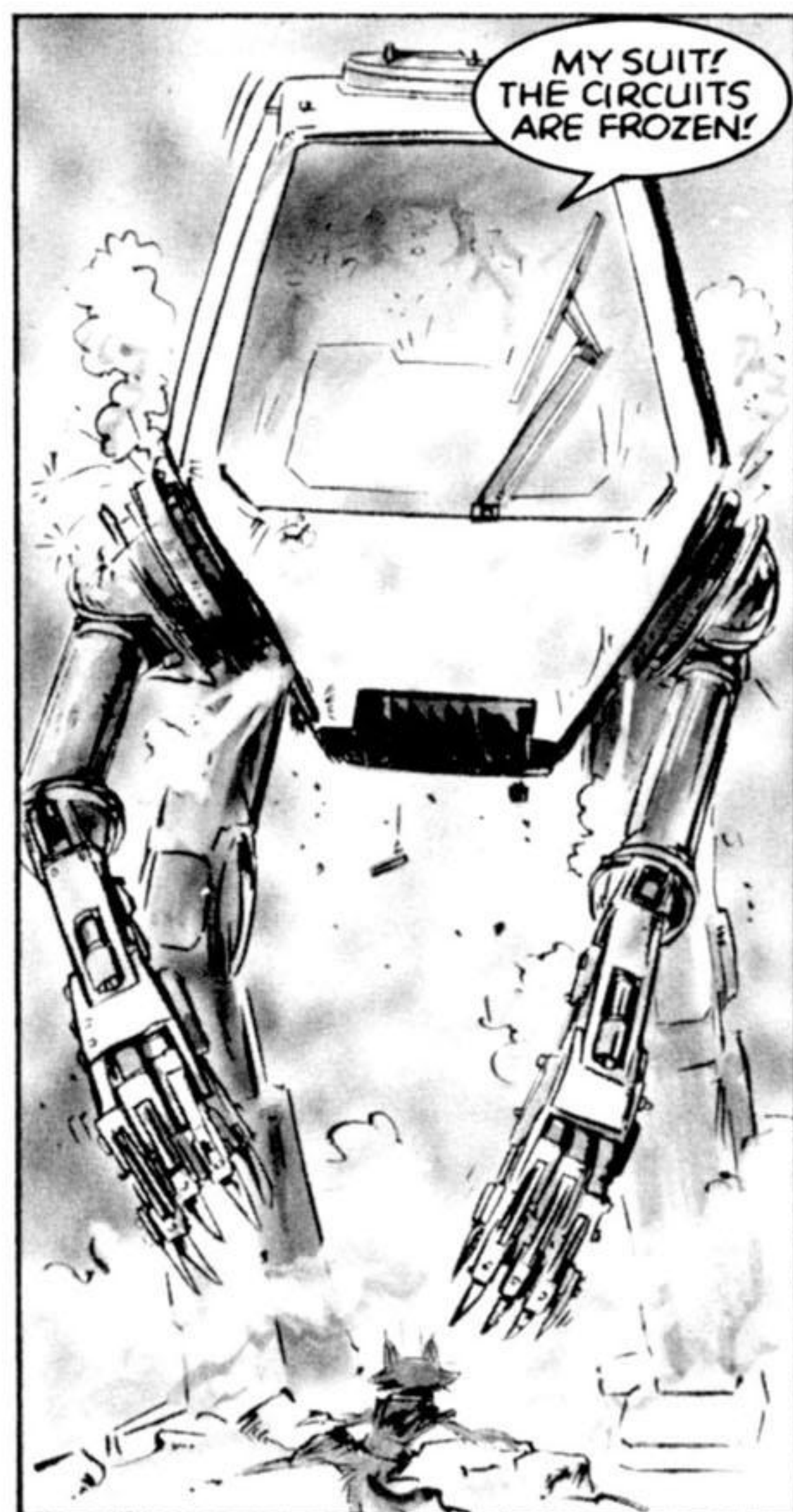
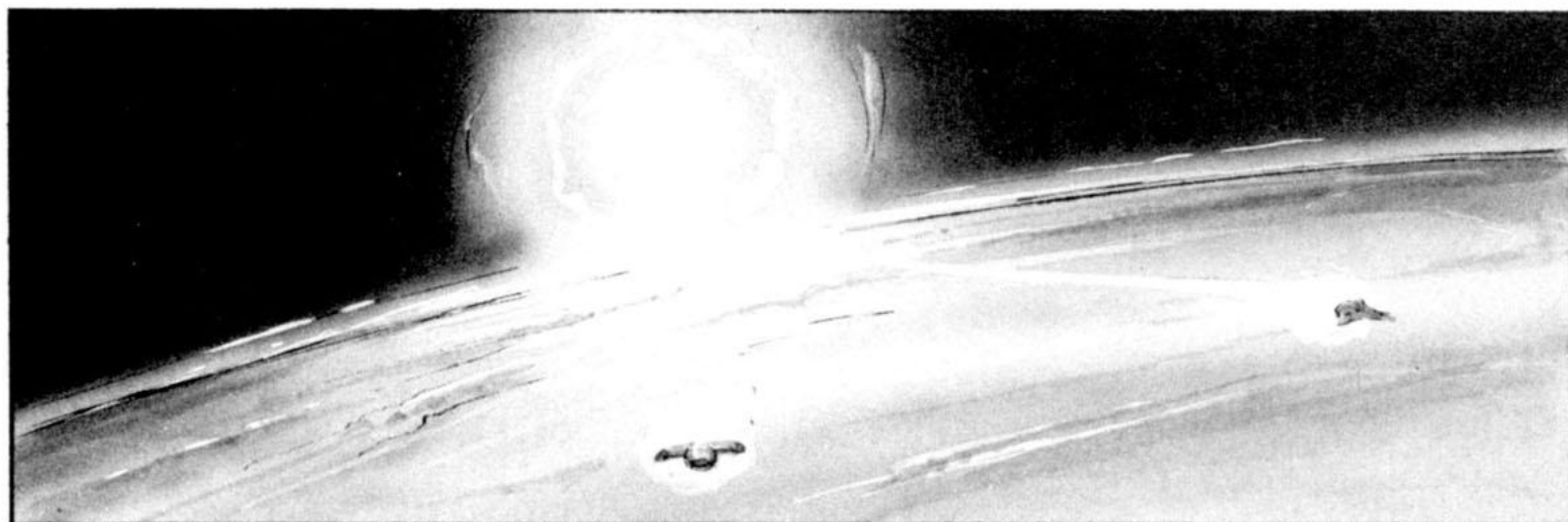
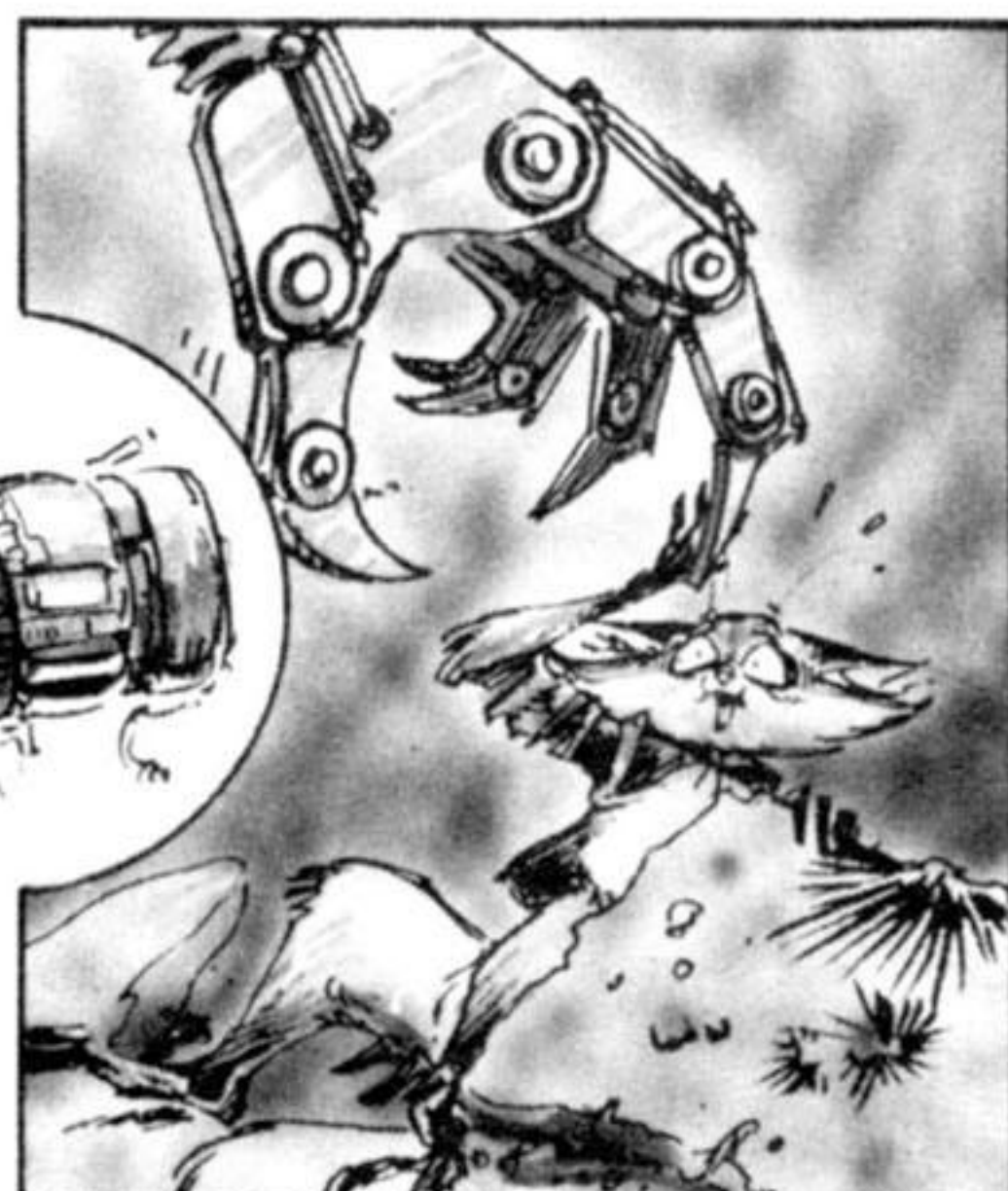
BACK AT YOU. LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH, THEN SWITCH SHIPS.

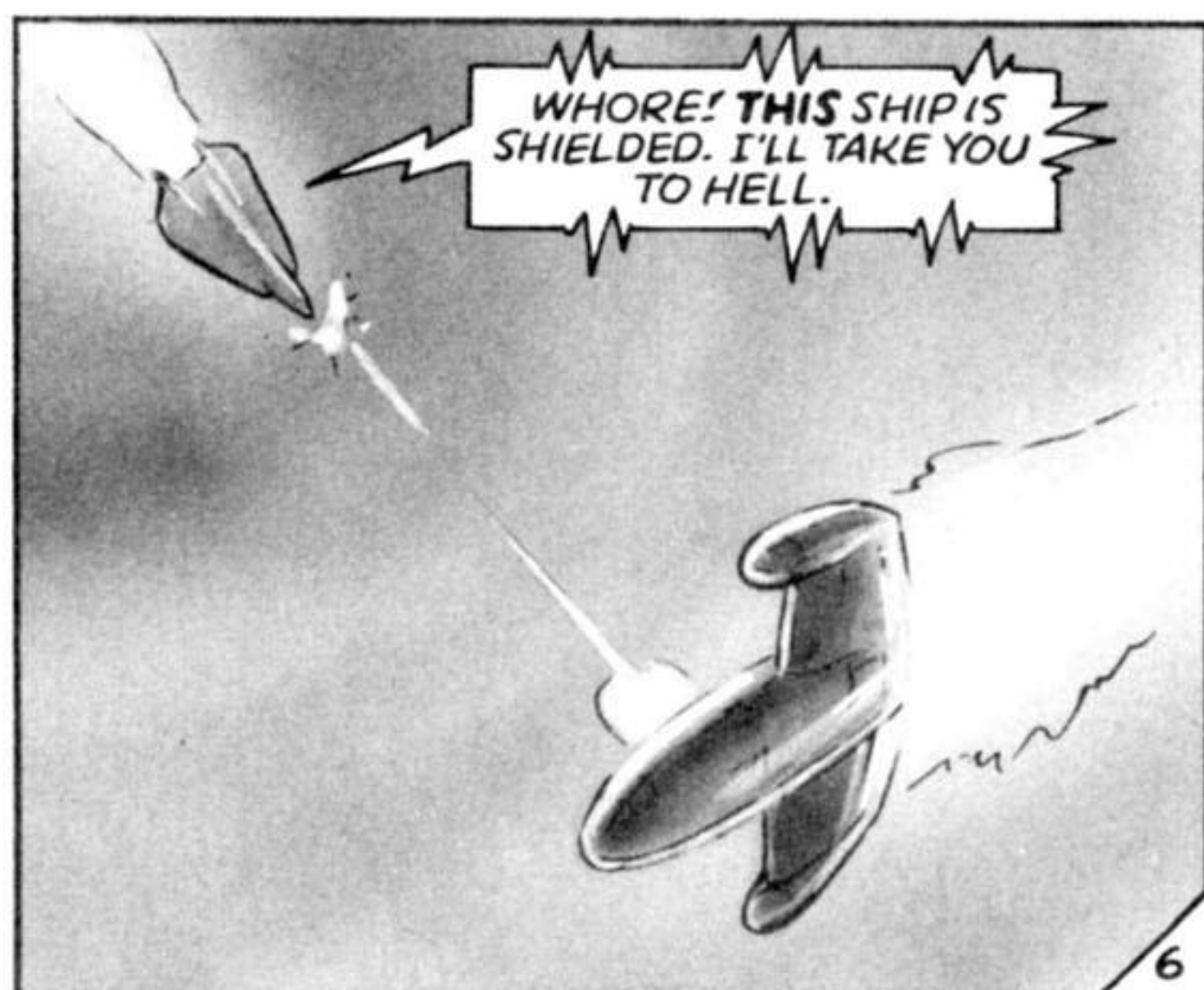
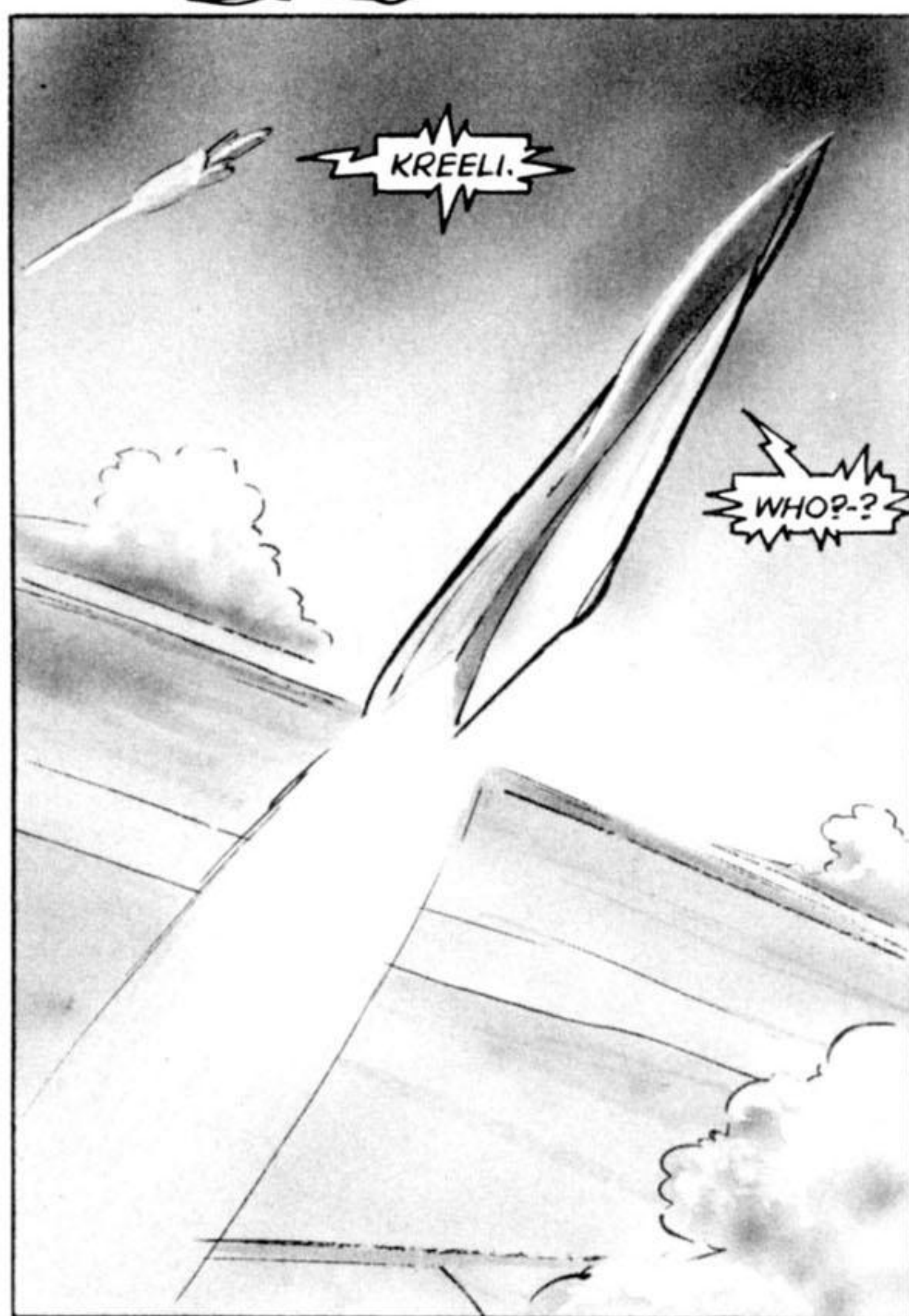
EY? AND THEN?

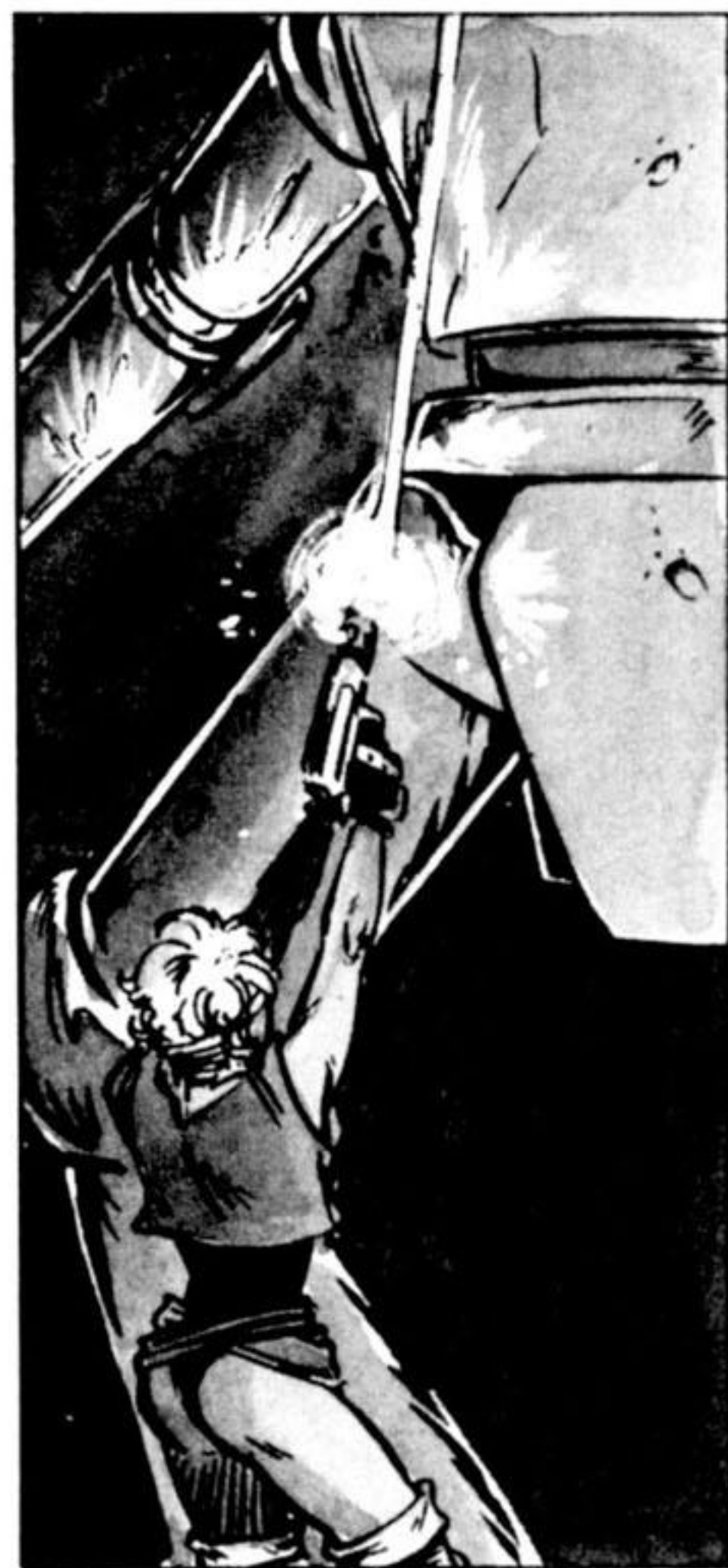
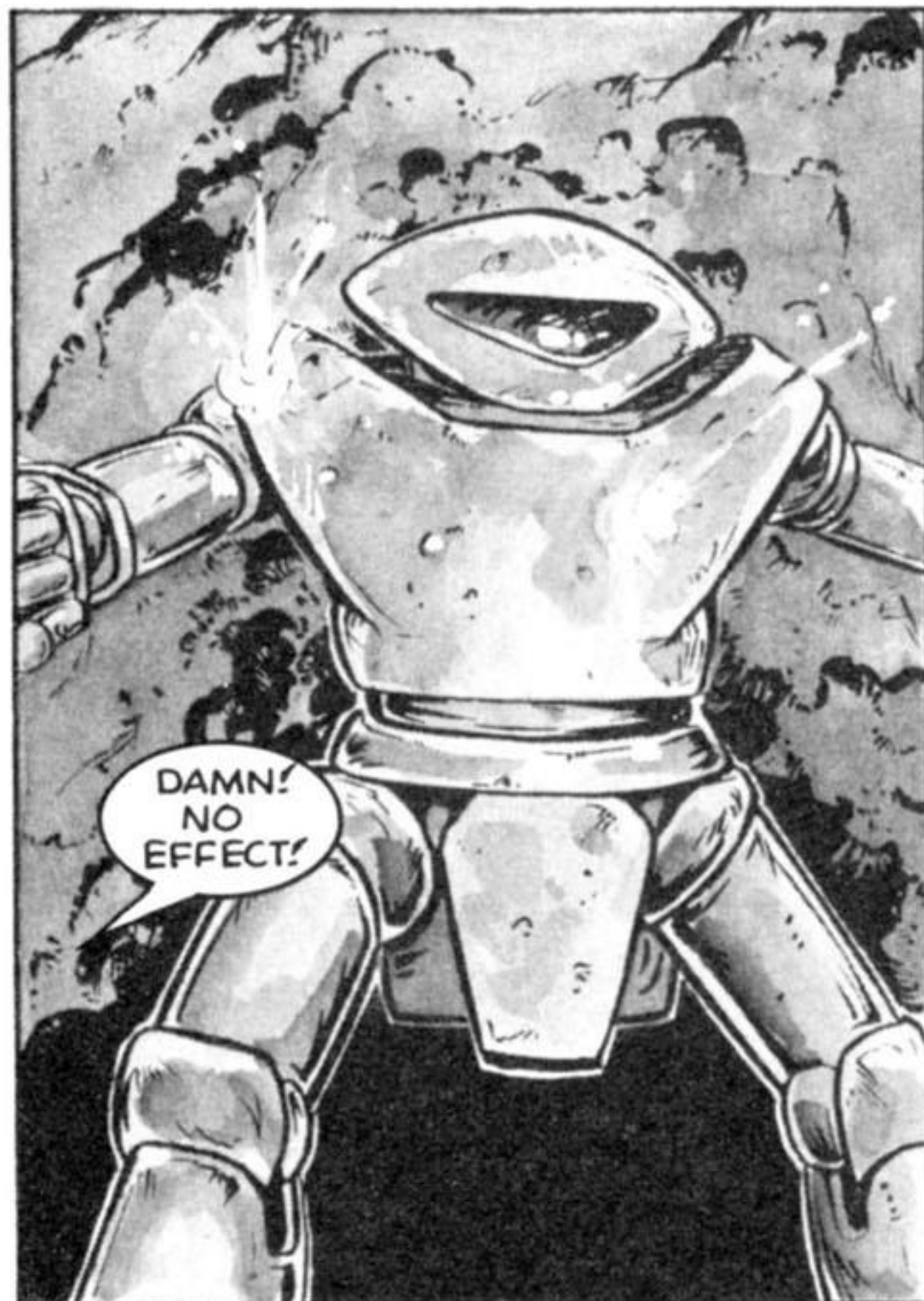
THEN I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS PLANETSIDE.

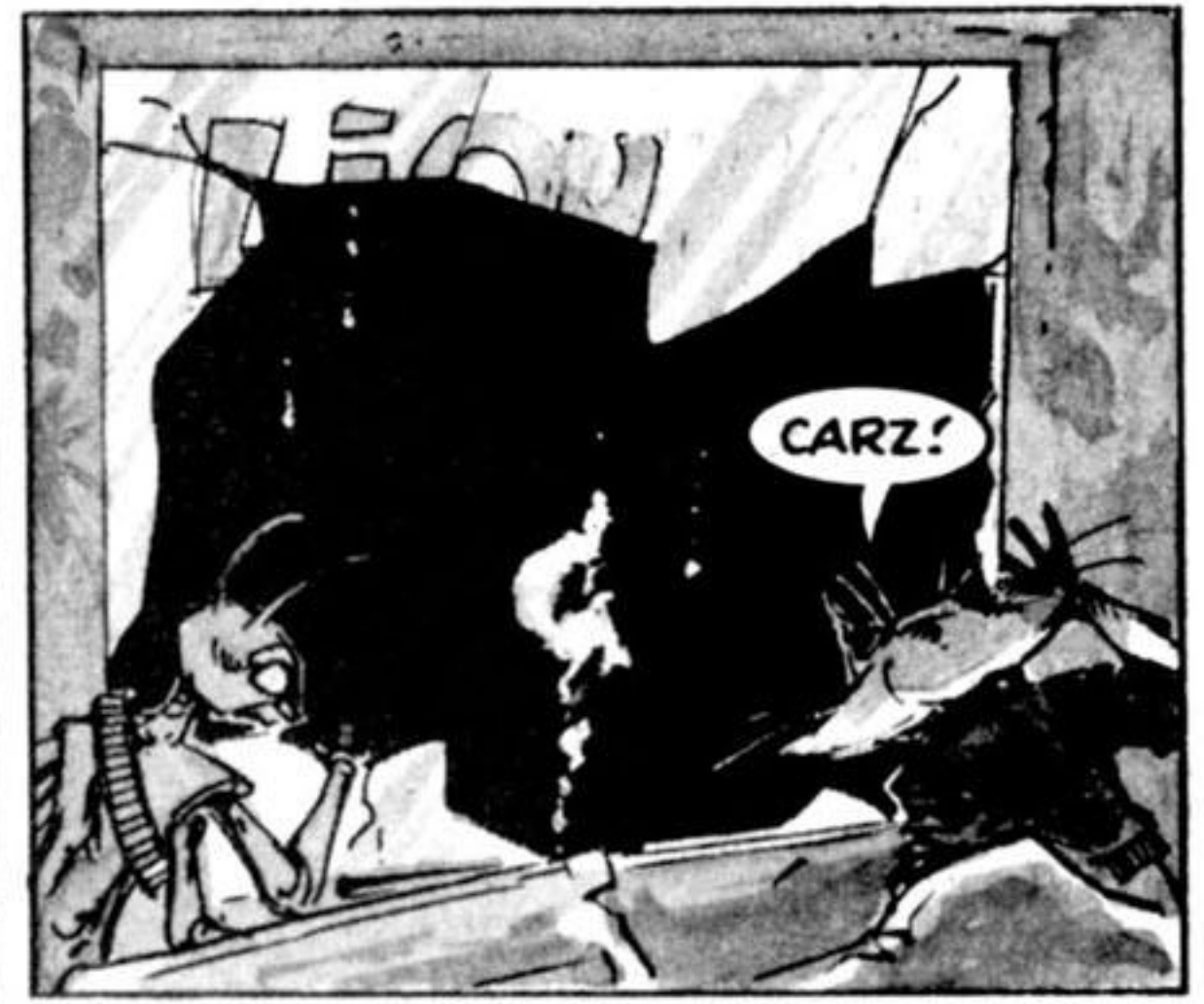


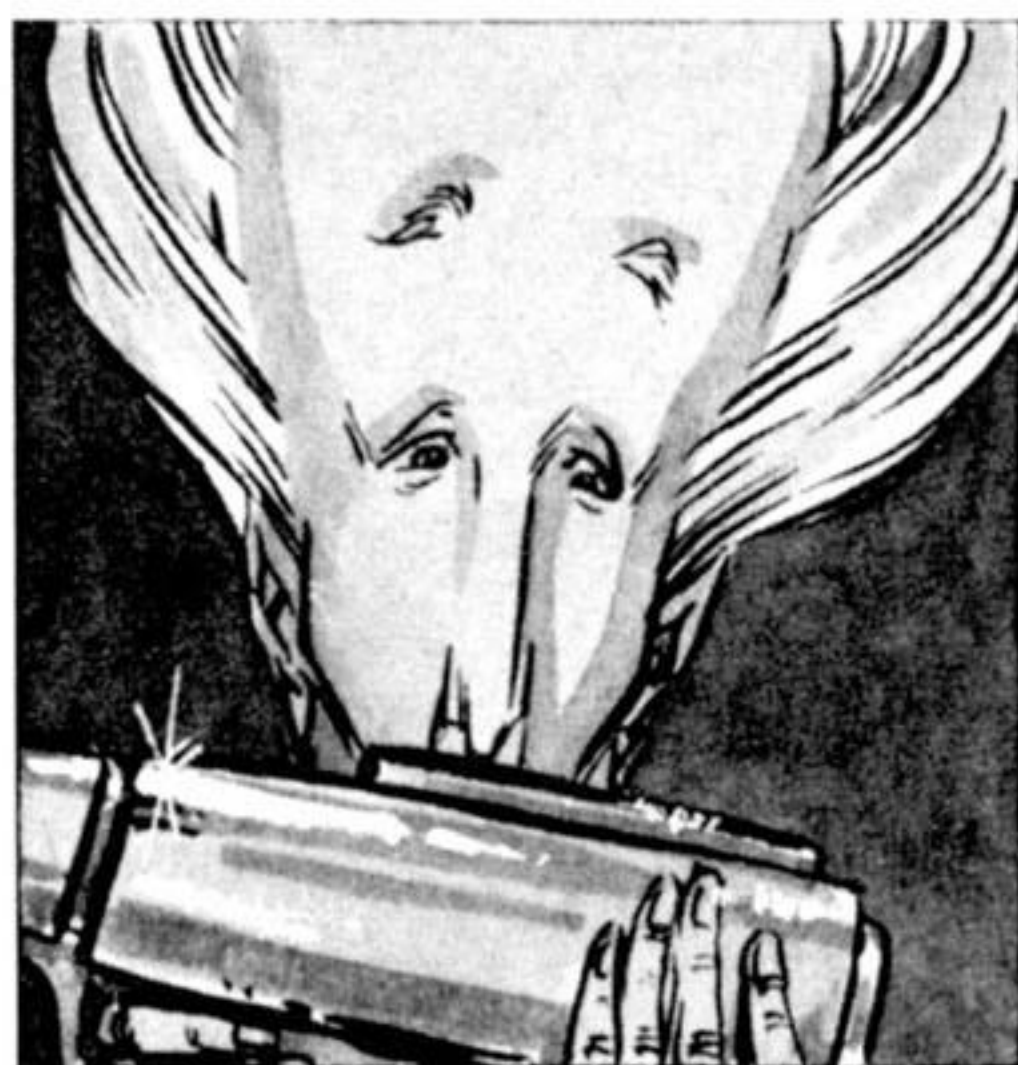
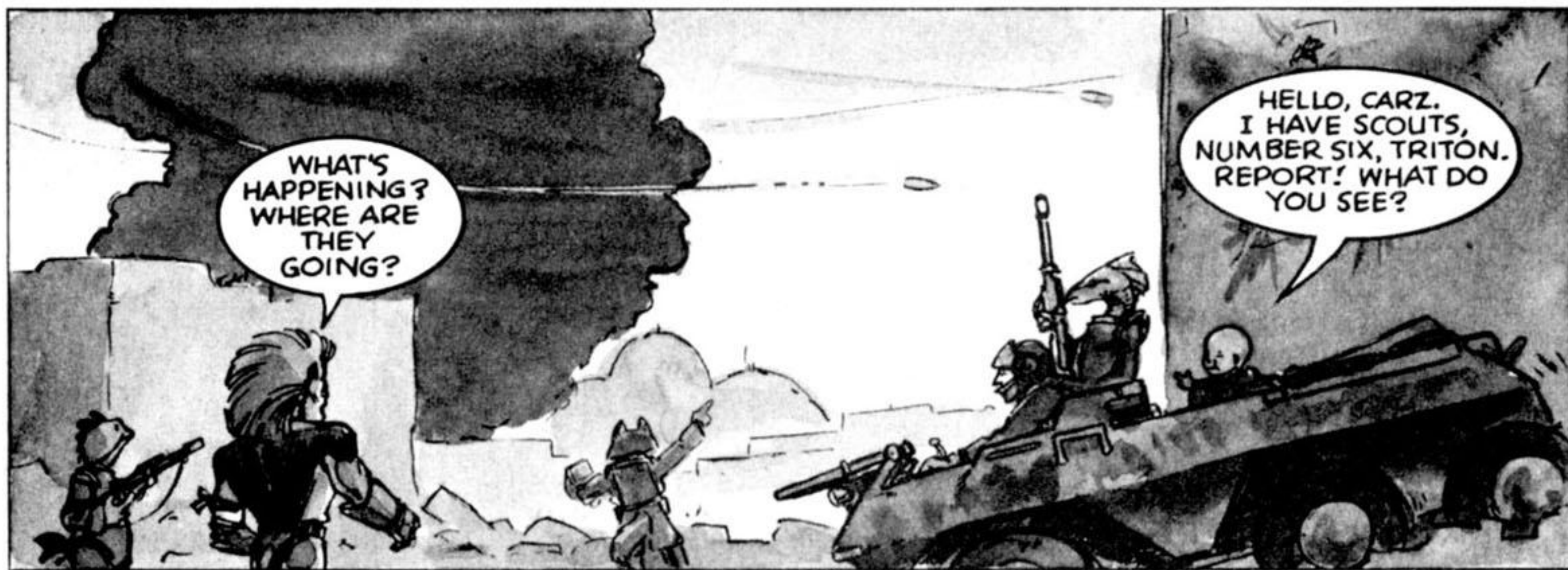














NO! MY
LIEGE, I'M
SORRY.

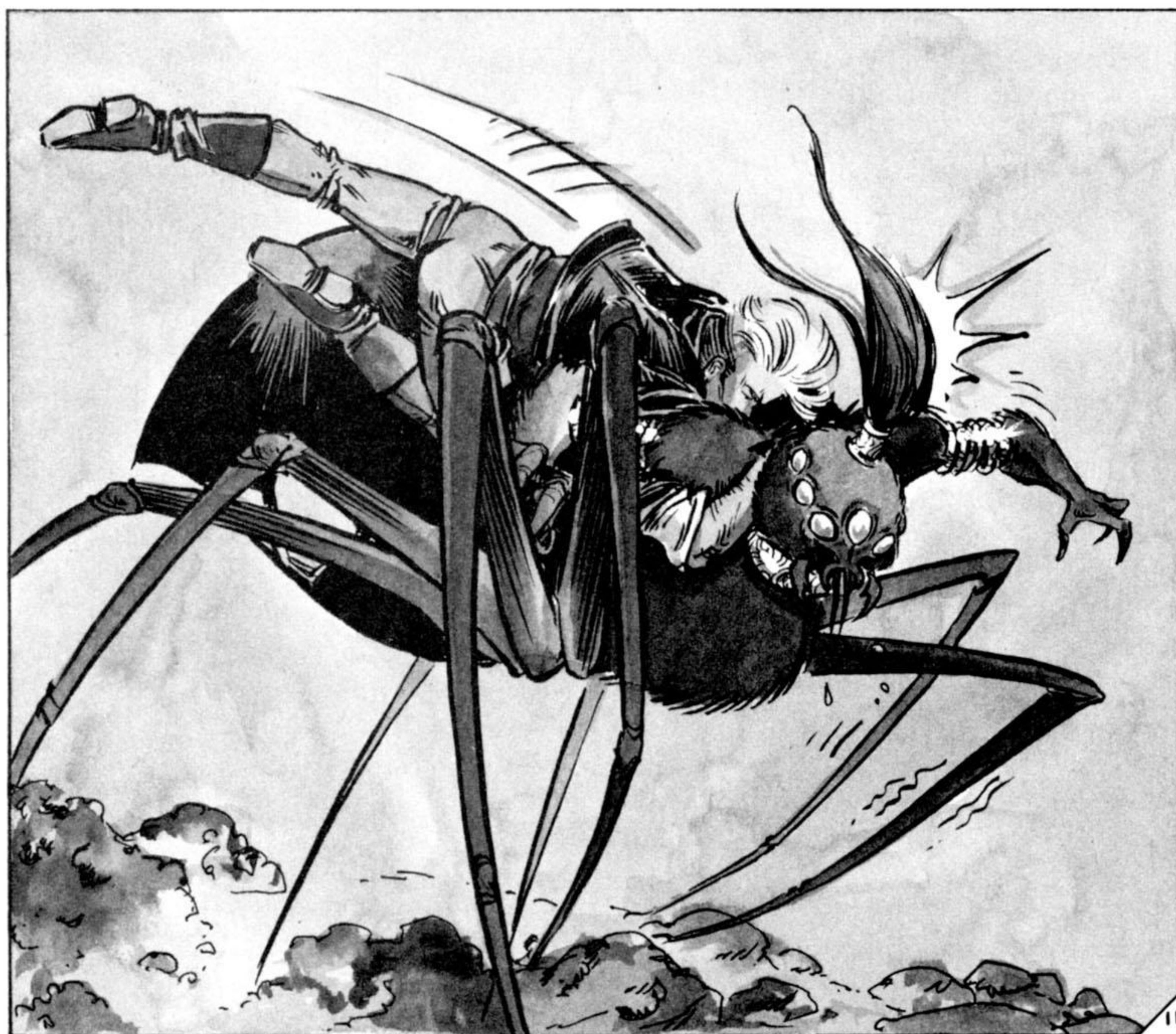
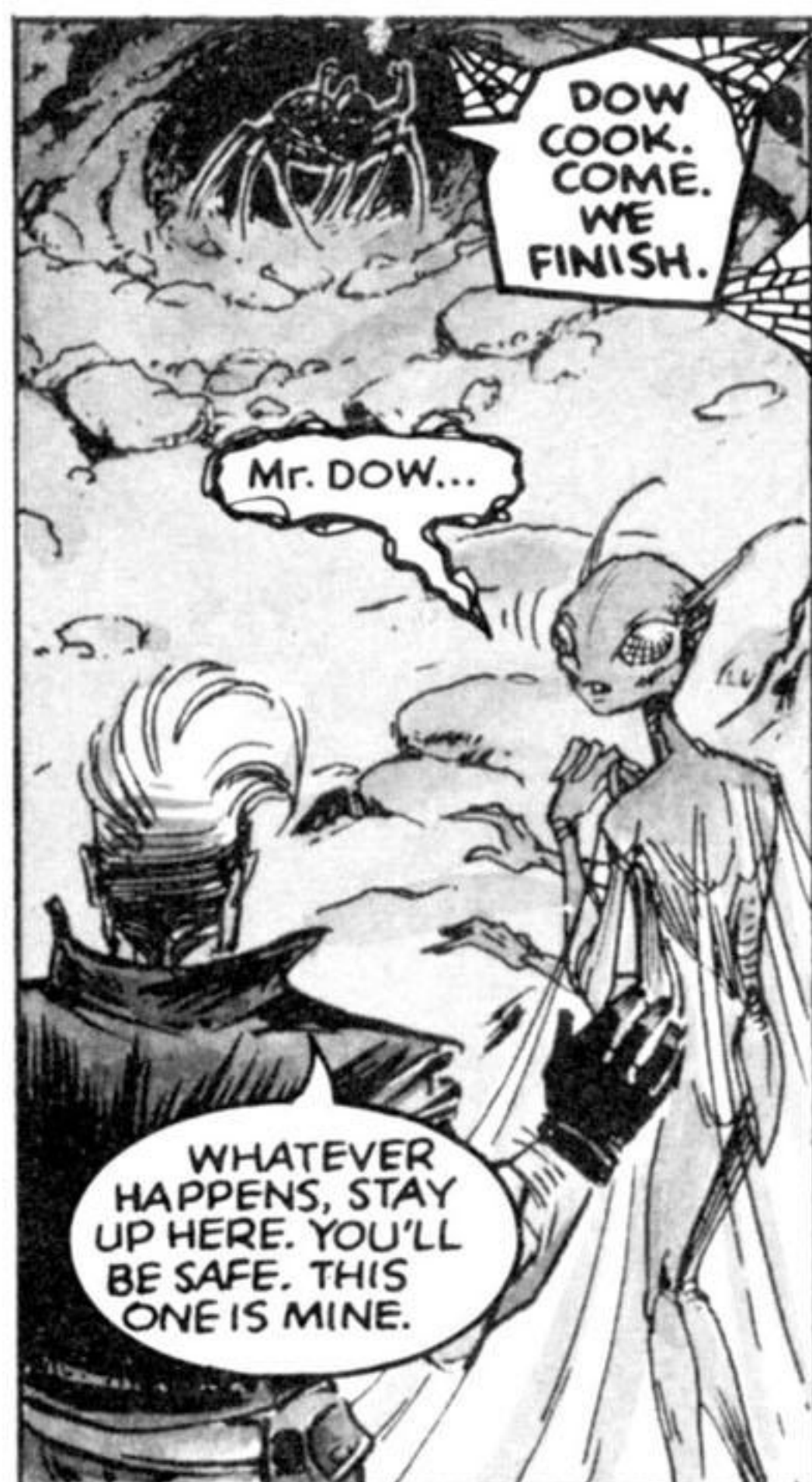


I TRUST YOU, DOW COOK. I AM
AFRAID, BUT I TRUST YOU.

WE SHOULD
BE ALL RIGHT, IF
INDIO HADN'T COME
THROUGH, THEY'D
BE ALL OVER US. ALL
WE HAVE TO DO
NOW IS HANG
ON.

SHIT!
I DON'T HAVE
A WEAPON.

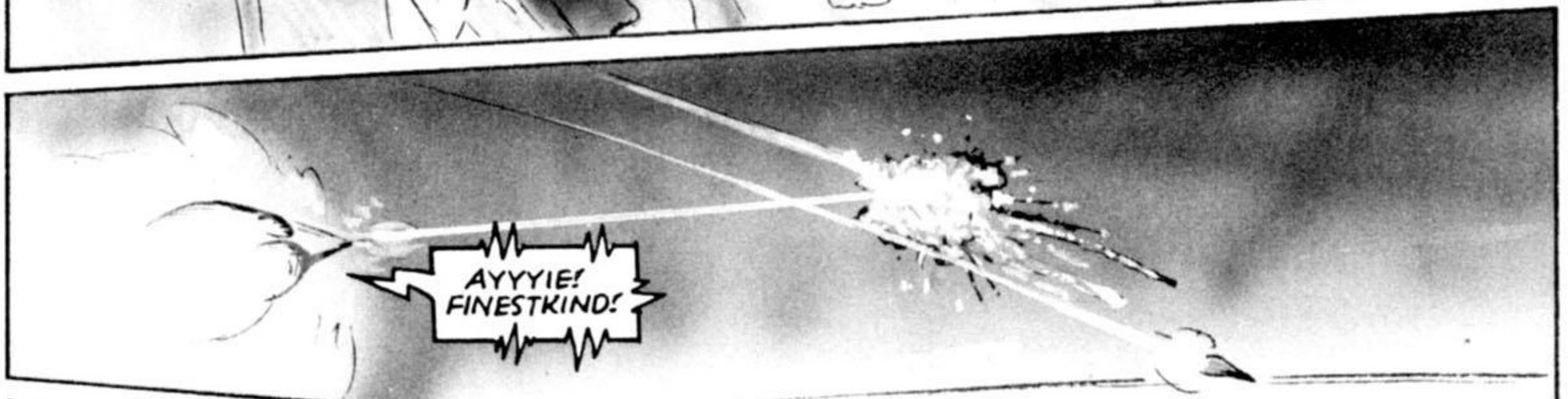








TAKE THE FLANKING
SHIPS, KREELI IS
MINE.



AYYYIE!
FINESTKIND!



ALL INTERNAL
SYSTEMS. MOBILITY
GOOD. A LITTLE
HOT IN THE
ENGINES.

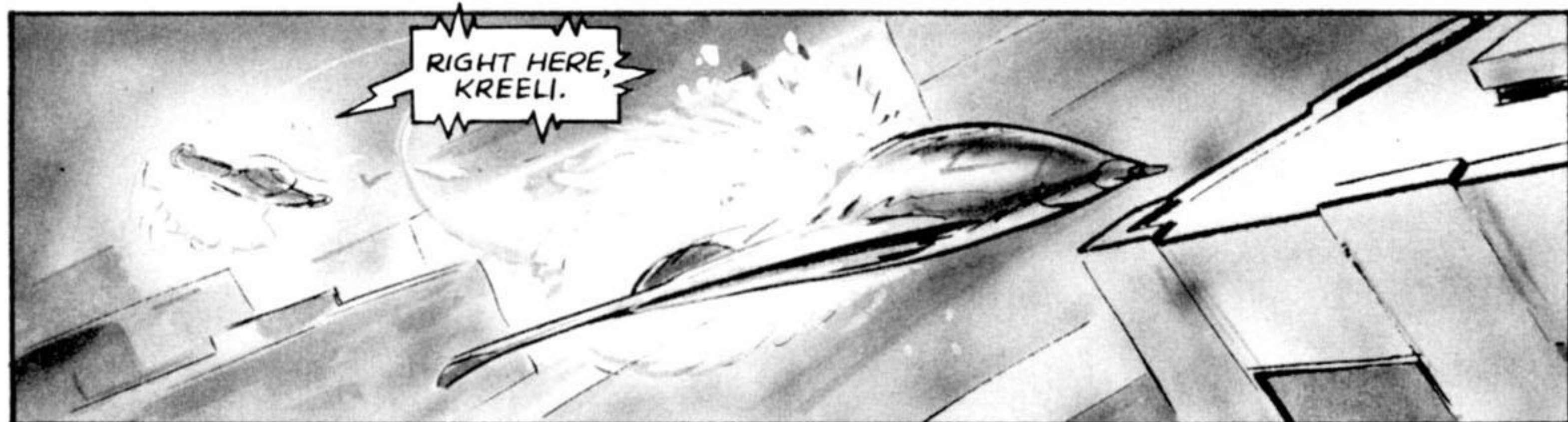
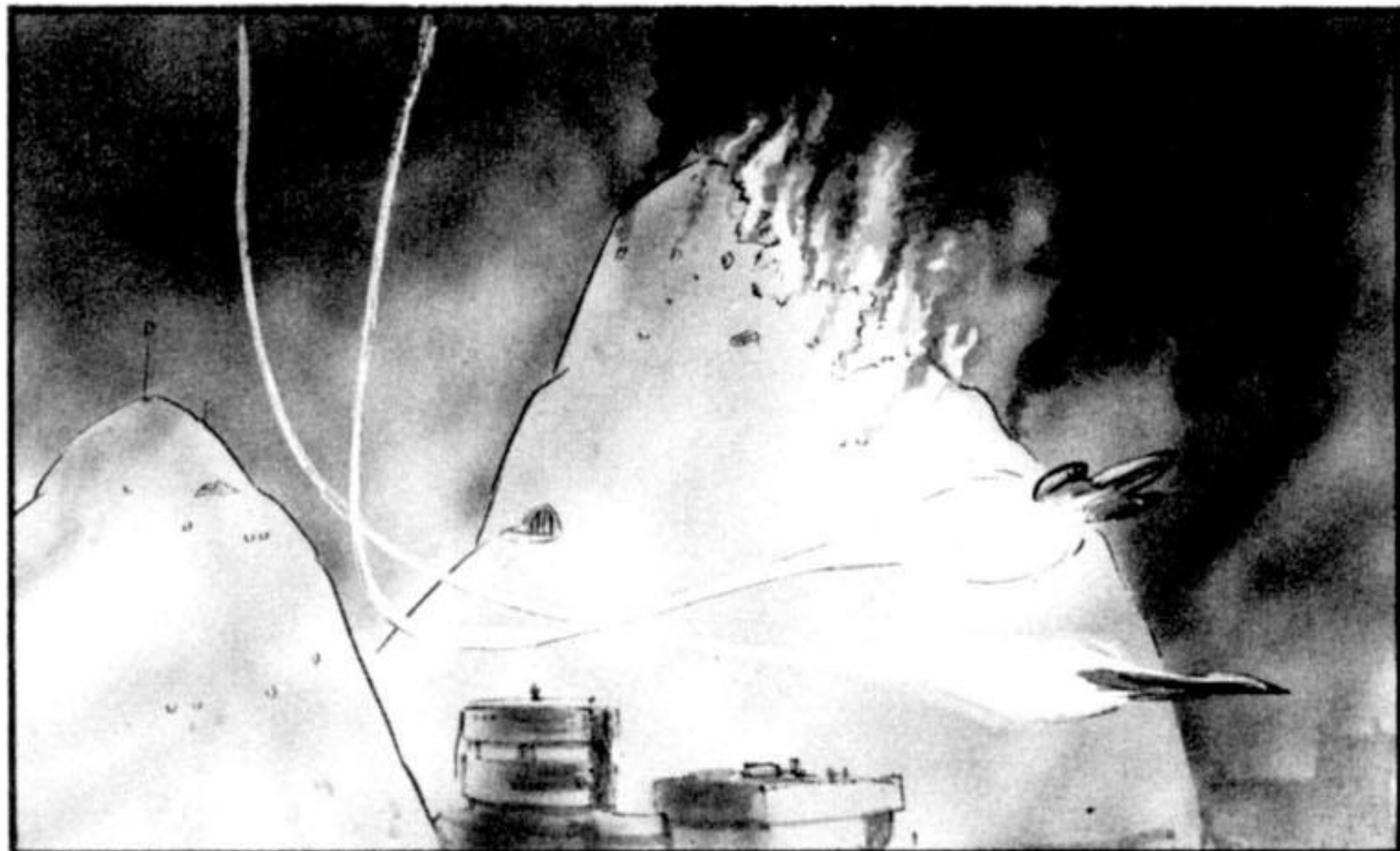
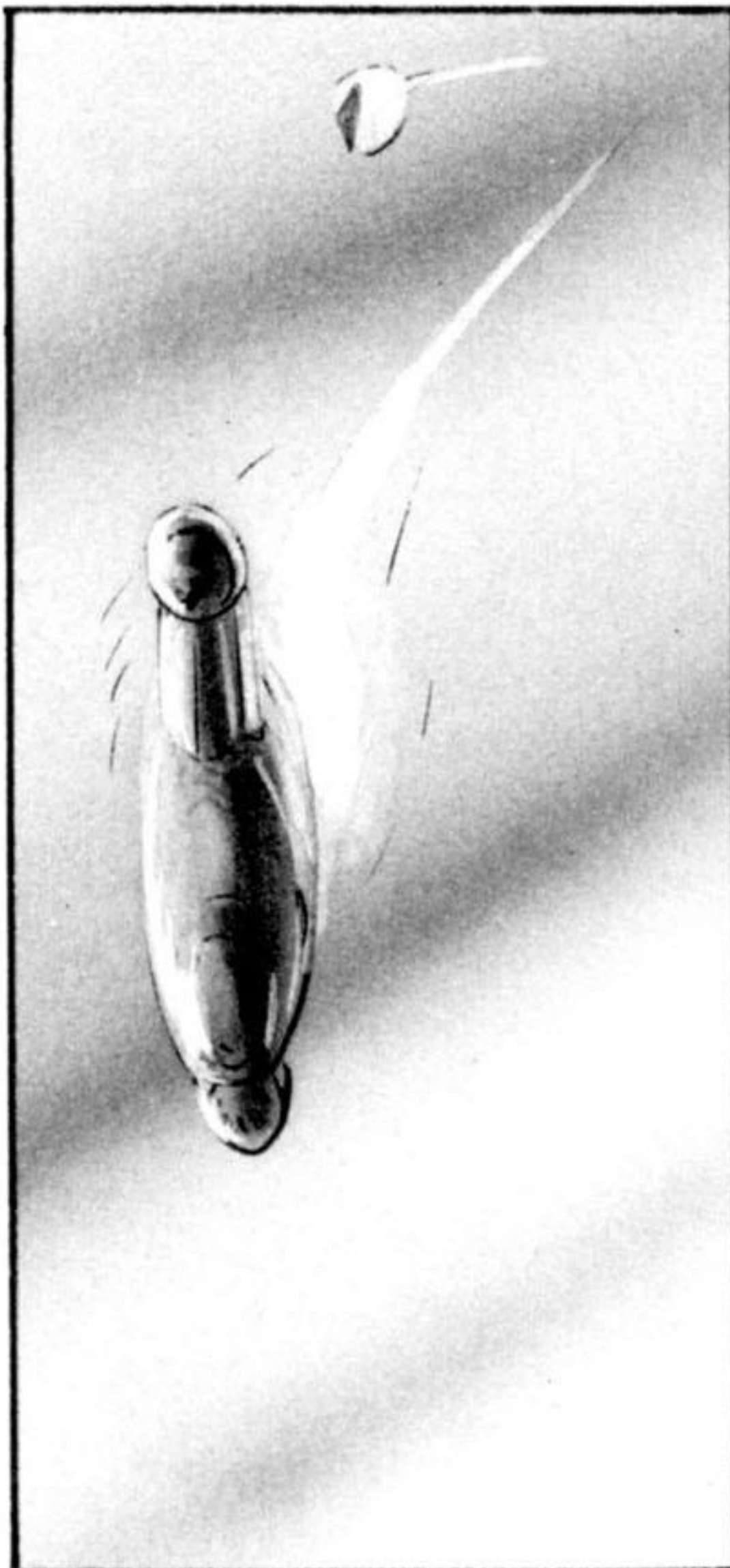
IF IT HOLDS
FIVE MINUTES,
THAT'S LONG
ENOUGH. COME
ON, KREELI...

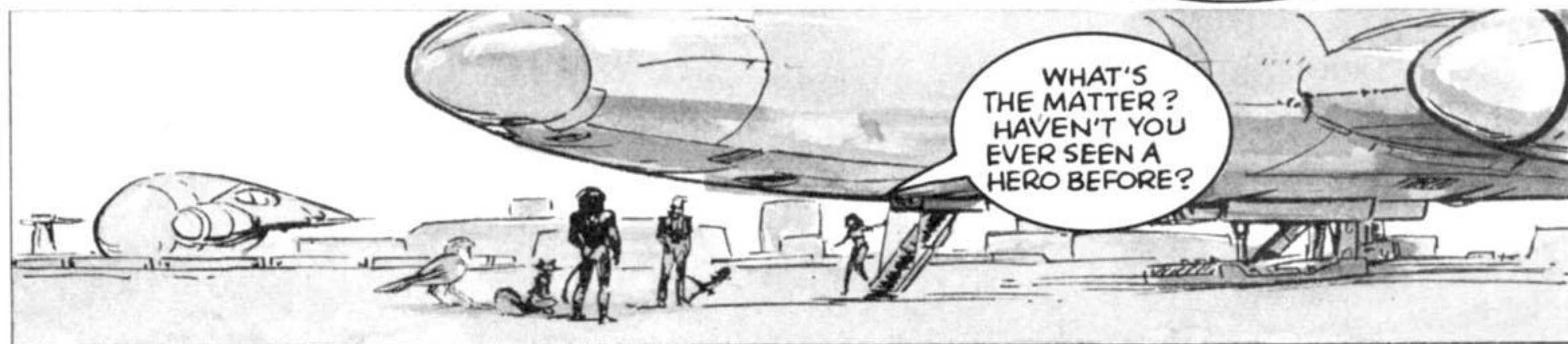


YOU'RE
NO MATCH FOR
ME, TREMAINE.
YOU SHOULD
HAVE
KNOWN.



HE'S TOO
DAMN GOOD
IN THE
ATMOSPHERE.
LET'S SEE HOW
HE IS WITH
OBSTACLES.









A New
Super Hero
Series

from

**Bruce
Jones
Associates**

Art by

Rick Burchett





Dear LEX,

I've read all three issues of **FUSION**, and I'm in a quandary. The art is too vague. I'm left not knowing what's going on quite often. Then, I read all these tributes to Steve and Lela's work in the letter column and I wonder if it's me. I've read Steven's SF in books and magazines and I've liked it. Perhaps his writing isn't suited to sequential art. I feel we're deep into the plot with no real motivation or characterization. I just don't care about these people. I don't even know them.

I rarely quit a story before it's over, but I've already spent \$6.00 for nothing ... except "Dr. Watchstop." How long do you think people will wait to find out what's going on? I'm sorry, but that's my opinion.

Charlie Harris
2657 N. Mountain
Tucson, AZ 85719

*Try to give us a chance, Charlie. A story of this scope takes a little time to develop, not to mention introduce characters and situations. I thought that things really picked up in issue three, and the whole shebang concludes in issue five. And, as you say, there's still Dr. Watchstop. *sigh* You can't please everyone, but then again there's always the next letter...*

Dear **FUSION**,

Love it! Love it! Love it! **FUSION** is the best comic I've ever read. Love Tan, he's great. I was going to try the contest, but I just could not picture a crapper with Tan on it! What does "make a do" mean? I think the comic could get along without Carz, though, and Indio's cheekbones are a little sharp, and her dresses are a bit too risqué; the scenes at the end of **FUSION** #2 were a little to the disliking of "Mother Dearest." I love the "grasshopper/locust" guards. Nives is a little funky; thanks for the descriptions at the end. Does Alshain have a temper, or what? What is the deal with Carz's right hand? I like the love/hate relationship between Dow and Indio. How does Tan stay on the table when his tail and all four legs are up on top? I have to say it again, I love Tan! I also like Dow Cook. How the hell did "Eight Ball" find Dow? I'm sorry I'm so inquisitive. What is the "Mystery Lady" doing at the end?

Jory Allanmeyer
675 S. Sierra #19
Solana Beach, CA 92075

P.S. Have you guys ever heard of wrap-around covers?

*Agggh! This reminds me of one of my old Psych-110 tests! Okay, in order: It means: "Go for it, dude," in space-talk; we did try to do it tastefully; Alshain really doesn't have a temper, but Tan pushes his luck too far at times; Carz lost his right hand somewhere, though no one's asked him just where yet; he clings to the top of the table; The spider gets around, and though the city is huge, the action takes place in only a small part of it; Cyn has just decided not to bother informing her contact at Glass Hall about what Dow Cook now knows. *Gasp* Yes, I've heard of them; no, we haven't done one yet.*

Dear **FUSION** Crew,

I'll get to the important part first. I LOVE **FUSION**! Picking up my first of three copies of the fab beginning issue at the Seattle Center Con in April, I was inspired to rush out and buy the second issue. I read it. I loved it!

To tell you the truth, **FUSION** does in some ways resemble the original **Star Wars** movie, but not too much to bore me. For one thing, Tan is certainly much more humorous than R2D2, and I see little connection between the two. I'll bet C3PO never caught R2 cheating at five-card stud with his tail. Also, the action revolves around one definitely not wimpy woman, imagine that! I share the sadness of the Tsunami crew at the death of Herrick. It is much like when Ben died, but here it is elevated, as I feel much closer to the characters personally. I was sad to see the group theme of **Star Wars** break up in the later movies, and I recommend that you keep the crew of the Tsunami fully together physically, if not mentally.

Each time I go back and reread my **FUSIONs**, I find more and more to laugh at and be surprised by, and overall I am really impressed. An excellent choice of storyline, perfect characterization, and **ALBEDO** or **ZELL** Gallacci artwork tinged with Lela Dowling's own style really makes the whole comic book click. I commend the use of the airbrush in place of the usual pen and ink that shows up in most black-

and-white comics these days. I'm just about sick of striped shadows.

Well, now that the flattery is done, I can say this. We have a *very* exclusive "Tan and Erma Fan Club," with two members so far. It's hard to get my favorite comics up here at a reasonable price, but I have my means. I would highly recommend the new **Enchanter** mini-series to anyone who likes **FUSION** as much as I do, along with any **ALBEDOs** that you may find, and the one-and-only **ZELL, Sworddancer**. (Please, Mr. Gallacci, may there be another issue?)

One last question: is it true that there is an opening in **FUSION** for writing? As far as I know it's just a rumor I heard, but I am interested. Keep up the good work, I look forward to the next issue.

Todd Clark
8270 NE Blakely Heights Drive
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

P.S. The ad for **FUSION** on the back of **ZELL** #2 still shows Herrick. Does that mean that he might not be dead?

*Glad to hear that you're enjoying the book. We've gotten a couple of letters talking about Herrick's death. All I will say is that these people are in a dangerous business, and death is the biggest risk they face. Indio's been pretty lucky so far, considering her excellent track record and low casualty rate. In any case, these guys will be around together for a while. The detailing of the art in **FUSION** is rather interesting. Steve and Lela even occasionally manage to sneak things past me. I agree, the **Enchanter** mini-series is wonderful and highly recommended. And, lastly - don't give up hope for future issues of **ZELL** just yet. Steve's still working on that one. We just signed Peter Morwood, Diane Duane and Michael Reeves to write for **FUSION**, so we don't have any openings for writers at this time. Thanks for asking.*



Dear Lex,

Well, well, well. How d'ya manage it, Lex? And what, exactly, does "conceptual editor" mean? (Yeah, I know you had it all explained in that "How We Do It" bit in **FUSION** #4.)

Anyhoo, this is really a brief missive to congratulate everyone at Eclipse for two of my favorite books in all of the wonderful world of comics: **FUSION** and **The Dreamery**.

Steve and Lela are two of my favorite artists, and I am enjoying immensely the "fusion" of their talents, along with that of Steven Barnes, in **FUSION**.

However, I have to say that my favorite part of issue four was that little "How We Do It" feature in the back. *Snicker* *Chortle* *Guffaw* It helps that I know almost all of the characters involved. Lela is to be congratulated on her (*snicker* *giggle*) talents as a caricaturist. I really laughed in delight at the illo of Steve Gallacci pencilling "the story on illustration board (on the kitchen table)." *hee hee*

Well, it's late and I gotta go. I look forward to many more issues of **FUSION** (and **The Dreamery**.)

Amy Falkowitz
3813 Barker Drive #3
San Jose, CA 95117

P.S. Mary Lynn Skirvin's "Bush Guide" was an added delight!

Amy! Good to hear from you - long time, no see! Thanks for the kind words. I'm learning a lot about the mind-boggling intricacies of the comics biz from these projects. Fascinating! "Conceptual Editor" sounded a lot better than "Fascist Dictator." The How-We-Do-It bit nearly put the pictures of certain artists on the sides of milk cartons. Thanks again!

Dear **FUSION**,

Are you selling any original art? If so, please send me a list.

Max Garrone
699 Madison Street
Monterey, CA 95940

*Yes, we are selling the original artwork. We will be sending you an information sheet on this, Max. Anyone else interested in buying original artwork, please write to us at **FUSION**, c/o Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California, 95436. Please be sure that your name and address are clearly printed on your letter. Thanks!*



Next Issue:

The next issue of **FUSION** will be very interesting. You will meet the crew of another ship, friendly rivals to the Tsunami. This crew gets a lesson in insurance scams, and even has a run-in with Frid Schalk and the Ravager — bad boys on the block. This story is written by Peter Morwood, soon to be a regular writer on **FUSION**. The art will also be created by someone new to the book: Larry Dixon.

Also in the next issue, Phil Foglio will be pencilling a story about Indio and the crew in an incident that takes place before "The Soulstar Commission," in which we learn a lot more about what makes the crew tick. Story by Peter Morwood, with a guest appearance by the notorious Frid Schalk! Firefighting and inking chores will be handled by the talented Monika Livingston. Plus, a "Weasel Patrol" story!

What?? Nothing by Ken or Steve or Lela??? Well, no. But just for this issue. I have been threatened with all sorts of torture too gruesome to relate if I didn't give the regular artists a rest. So, it's vacation time! Steve Gallacci and Lela Dowling will definitely be back in issue seven, where we start yet another series of plot complications for our intrepid heroes. Stay tuned for the highly amusing sex farce (of sorts): Spring Rolls. Things get hot when someone goes into heat! Be there!

In addition to giving the regular artists some time off I, too, will be absent for the next issue. I leave you in the capable hands of Gordon, the talking Garb, now promoted to Operations Manager. Congratulations, you knob!

—lex nakashima



"Best Motherly Advice" Contest Winner:

"Don't photocopy your face — you'll ruin your eyes."

— The mom of Brian Albertson

"Don't make so many long-distance phone calls, save it up so you can move out."

— The mom of Noel Tominack

"Never become an artist unless you plan to be like Andy Warhol or Van Gogh. Comic artists get paid nothing, and the same with the people who draw for books and magazines with spot illustrations"

— The mom of non-artist Max Garrone

"But really, my mom is pretty cool. She's given me some heavy things to think about. The most crucial is probably when she told me to stop reading these brain-melting comic books. (Just kidding.) Actually, the best is when she advised me to be my own person and not to be influenced by other people, but to make my own decisions."

— Brian D. Olson

"I could say the best advice my mother ever gave me was something like 'don't ever lie' or so forth, but every mother says that. My mother reads a lot of my comics, and the best advice she ever gave me was 'Don't ever buy a comic with the name Chuck Norris in the title.'"

— Sean Swanson

"Don't hold your breath. You'll kill yourself before the next issue of **FUSION** gets here."

— The mom of Todd "Max" Clark

The Winner:

The team of judges deliberated long and hard to pick a winner, and it took more than one ballot before the smoke coming out of the LX, ltd. offices was white, indicating that a winner had been chosen.

The First Runner-Up will be called upon to serve the rest of the winner's term should the winner be gunned down on an LA freeway, or pose for a nude centerfold. Winning this special bonus prize of a full-color **FUSION** poster is Brian Albertson! (We were initially going to make his prize a photocopy of a page of original artwork, but at the last minute we had a change of heart.)


The Winner is Brian D. Olson, thanks in part to his ever-practical mom. Way to go, Brian! We will be in touch with you about your prize.

ADVANCES IN SCIENCE COUPLED WITH THE CONQUEST OF NEW WORLDS HAD BROUGHT CRIME INTO A NEW ERA. USING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY, A BOLD BAND OF SMUGGLERS THREATENED THE SECURITY OF THE CIVILIZED ECONOMY WITH CONTRABAND UNKNOWN ONLY BRIEF DECADES BEFORE. TO COUNTER THIS THREAT TO THE CIVILIZED WORLDS, A NEW ORDER WAS FORMED, A SPECIAL POLICE FORCE CONSISTING OF A GENETICALLY UPLIFTED SPECIES. A SPECIES OF INTELLIGENCE, PERCEPTION, SKILL, CUNNING, AGILITY, AND RUNNING AWAY. A FORCE KNOWN AS...

THE WEASEL PATROL



WEASEL LIASON, CHECK SIGNER, PARTY COORDINATOR - LEX NAKASHIMA
ART & STORY - KEN MACKLIN & LELA DOWLING **LETTERING - L. LOIS BUHALIS**
EDITOR - LETITIA GLOZER



MY NAME IS WILLY.
I CARRY A BADGE (EXCEPT
WHEN I WANT TO PRETEND I'M
NOT A COP). MY PARTNERS AND
I ARE UNDERCOVER HERE ON THIS
REMOTE MOON OF JUPITER. WE'VE
GOTTEN A TIP THAT SMUGGLERS
WILL BE DROPPING A HUGE DRUG
SHIPMENT HERE FOR PICK-UP BY
AN AGENT OF A LARGE
CRIMINAL CARTEL.

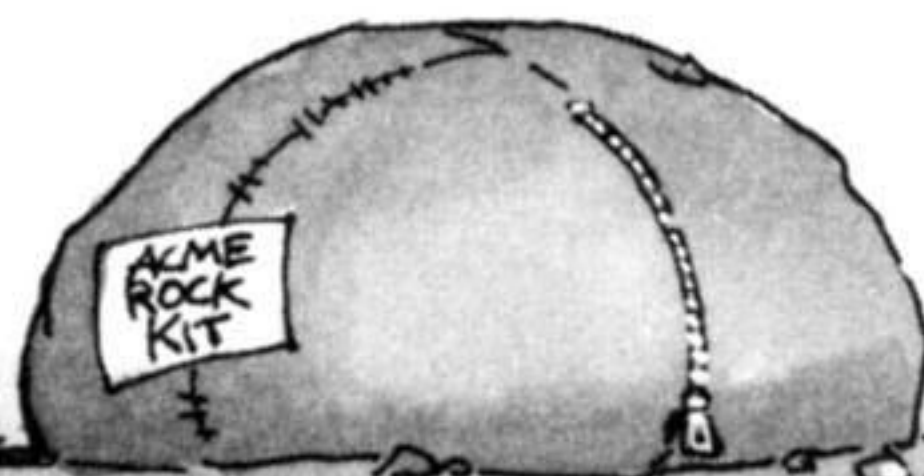


WHILE ON STAKEOUT, THE WEASEL
PATROL ASSUMES DISGUISES SO AS
NOT TO AROUSE SUSPICION.

OK...YOU
KNOW WHAT TO DO
WHEN THEY DROP
THE SHIPMENT?

RUN AWAY?

NO.



MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE
REMOTE MOON...

I'VE TIPPED
OFF THE WEASEL
AND THEY HAVE A
STAKEOUT.

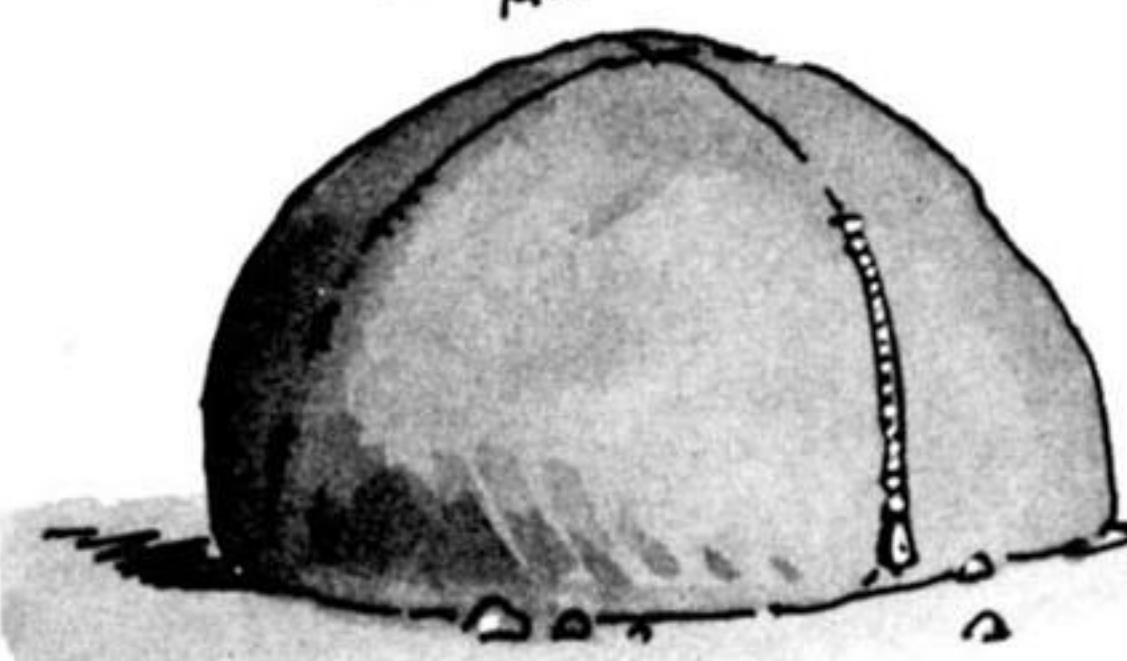
GET
READY TO
DROP THE
DRUG
SHIPMENT!

OUR PLAN
DEPENDS ON THE
BOXES BEING
FOUND. WE'VE GOT
TO MAKE CERTAIN
THAT EVEN THOSE
MORONIC WEASELS
RECOGNIZE THE
SHIPMENT!

DOWN BELOW...



MUNCH
MUNCH



MUNCH
MUNCH
= SMACK =



MUNCH
MUNCH
= SLURP =
CHEW
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
EAT



LEROY! PUT
THOSE CHEEZIES
AWAY! YOU'RE
ATTRACTING LOCAL
WILDLIFE!



HEY! BUG
OFF, YOU GUYS!
WE'RE ON A
STAKEOUT,
HERE!



SHOO!
G'WAN!



TWACK!

VARGH!



YEEP!





MEANWHILE, UP ABOVE...

DAMN! THOSE
STUPID WEASELS HAVE
BEEN DISTRACTED! WE'VE
GOT TO GET THEIR
ATTENTION!

BONK

EEP!

DRUGS

GOOD
WORK, LEROY!
YOU'VE FOUND
THE DRUGS!

THIS
IS IT!

DRUGS

DOPE
INSIDE

IN HERE!

DRUGS
IN
HERE!

THE SKY IS FALLING...
RUN AWAY!

NOW WE'VE
GOT TO STOP THAT
GLANSNETTLE! HE'S
TAKEN THE LAST
OF THE
CHEEZIES!

oog!

THE WEASELS UNLEASH A BLOOD-CURDLING BATTLE CRY...

WEEEASEL
ATTACK!!!



MEANWHILE,
OVER THE
HILL...

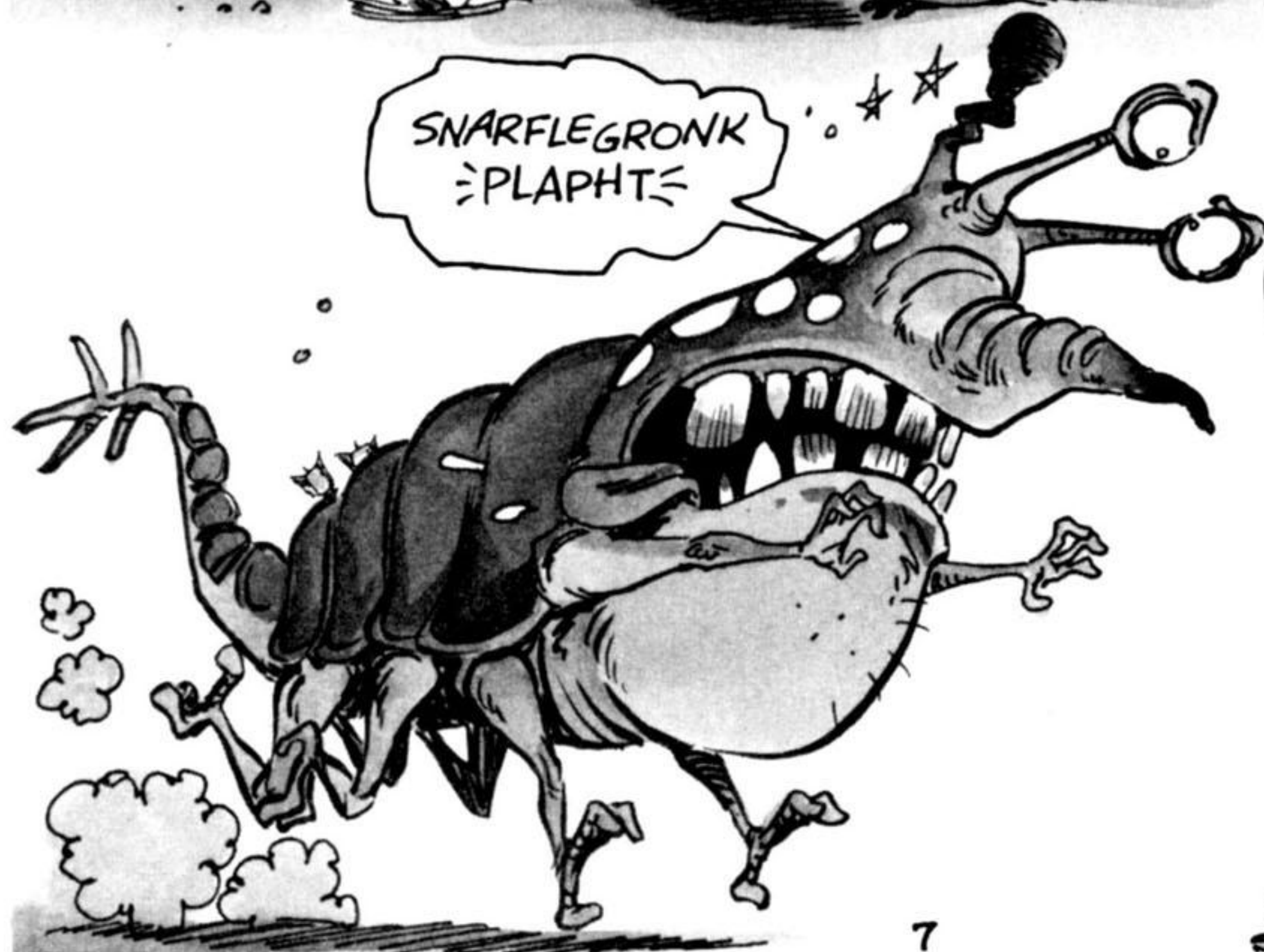
Heh, heh. WHILE
THOSE MEATHEAD
WEASELS ARE
DISTRACTED BY THE
FAKE SHIPMENT, WE'LL
LOAD UP THE REAL
DRUGS DISGUISED IN
THESE CHEEZIE
BOXES!



YEZ, BOZZ.



SNARFLEGRONK
=PLAPHT=



Oh, NO!
IT'S A CRAZED
STALK-EYED,
AMBULATORY,
CHITINOUS
GLANSNETTLE!

YEZ,
BOZZ.





END



TOP OF THE NEWS



ECLIPSE PRESS

FORESTVILLE, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER/MCMLXXVII

SELL-OUT SUMMER CONTINUES...

ECLIPSE OVERSHIPS 5 NEW TITLES

Hoping to avoid the barrage of titles which were forced back to press due to June sell-outs, publisher Dean Mullaney has decided to overship on key July issues of five new summer series. The first issue of *Prowler* will be overshipped by 25 percent, and the second issues of *Hotspur*, *Liberty Project*, *Lost Planet*, and *Axa* will be overshipped by 20 percent.

"Fan response has been really strong to the titles we've debuted this summer," says Mullaney, "and we want plenty of copies on hand to satisfy this increased demand." Heavy reorders last month took Eclipse back to press on ten different books. "We're happy to go back to press when demand warrants, but we'd much rather have the copies in the stores for immediate sale," says Mullaney.

Any overshipped books that haven't sold in ninety days are fully returnable, "though," laughs distribution manager Sean Deming, "that's not highly likely. Fan demand this summer has been at a real high. These books are as diverse a line-up as you could get, held together only by a strong commercial appeal and overall quality."

Prowler, a masked avenger comic from *Scout*'s Tim Truman and *Fashion In Action*'s J. K. Snyder III, has had very strong advance word of mouth. *Hotspur* reteams Truman and John Ostrander, the creators of *Grimjack*. *The Liberty Project*, by Kurt Busiek, James W. Fry, and Doug Hazlewood, has garnered rave reviews and enthusiastic letters from super-team fans. *Lost Planet* features the fan favourite art of Bo Hampton. And *Axa*, the post-apocalyptic barbarienne, is written by *Airboy*'s Chuck Dixon and drawn by Enrique Romero, the man who made her a legend in Europe.

Captain Eo Hits Stores In August

The long-awaited 3-D *Captain Eo* comic will ship no later than August 4, according to distribution manager Sean Deming. "The delay was due to waiting for approval from everyone involved," he said. The comic is an adaptation of a 3-D film starring Michael Jackson, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, and produced by George Lucas. The movie can only be seen in special theatres at Disneyland and Epcot Center.

The regular edition retails for \$3.50. The souvenir edition, an oversize version that will be sold at Disneyland and Epcot Center, retails for \$6.95 and will also ship to comics stores in early August.

Liberty, Lost Planet, Enchanter All Hot

Valkyrie!, Scout, Contractors, Terror Join Manga 2nd Runs On Sold Out List

Retailers hit the nail on the head when they dubbed the 1987 convention season as "Eclipse's sell-out summer." Those who underestimated the high summer demand for Eclipse titles have been running to their distributors to reorder, only to find in some cases that it's too little, too late. "The new series are starting to take off," says editor-in-chief Cat Yronwode, "and by the time the slower retailers realize it, faster hands will have already grabbed up the thousands of extra copies we've printed." New books already affected include *Liberty Project*, *Lost Planet*, *Enchanter*, *Valkyrie!*, *Contractors*, *Kamui*, *Mai*, and *Area 88*.

Last month, *Valkyrie* #1 and *Scout* #18-19 sold out, and Eclipse was forced back to press on *Miracleman* #11, *Reid Fleming* #1-2, *Kamui* #1-3, *Mai* #1-2, and *Area 88* #1-2. This month, *Valkyrie* #2, *Scout* #16-17, and the second printings of *Kamui* #1-3, *Mai* #1-2, and *Area 88* #1-2 join the list of sold out titles, but sell-out activity has spread from the *Valkyrie!/Scout*/manga core to include *Contractors* #1, *Tales of Terror* #12, *Enchanter* #1, *Liberty Project* #1, and *Lost Planet* #2.

"*Lost Planet* #2 was overshipped on a returnable basis, so distributors may still have copies available," says distribution manager Sean Deming. "We just can't get copies of those other titles, however. Of course, anything not on the sold out list (above) is still available for reorders. I'm expecting another list of sold out titles next month, though. Retailers should take a good hard look at what's moving and get their reorders in immediately."

"Retailers who were burned by last year's black and white glut have a tight cash flow right now, and we understand that," says publisher Dean Mullaney. "This recent flurry of reorder activity is a direct result of overly cautious ordering. Unfortunately, we have to set our print runs near the level of initial orders. When a book becomes hot and retailers underorder, we all lose sales."

Consistent sell-outs on *Scout* over the last four months are merely a prelude to *Swords of Texas* and *New America*, the two new mini-series that will spin off this fall from *Scout* #24, the last issue of that series. When *Swords* and *New America* conclude this winter, *Scout: War Shaman* will begin the all new adventures of Timothy Truman's hard-hitting hero. "Fan anticipation is really heating up sales on all the *Scout*-related titles," says editor Yronwode. "Many retailers are going to be hard-hit to provide back issues when *War Shaman* takes off in January."

Winter World Features "Next Al Williamson"

Argentinean Zaffino Makes American Comics Debut

Winter World, a three issue mini-series, is the next title to join the 4Winds line from Eclipse. Jorge Zaffino, a popular artist in Argentina, makes his American debut on the book, much to the delight of writer Chuck Dixon. "It just looks real good," he says. "It's very realistic, very gritty, and also very dynamic."

Editor Tim Truman gives Zaffino terse praise: "He could be the next Al Williamson," he says.

Dixon—who writes *Airboy*, *Strike!*, *Axa*, *Savage Sword of Conan*, and *Evangeline*—has created a brutal future for the denizens of *Winter World*. "The earth is entirely frozen over," he says. "It's hundreds of years in the future, and present day civilization is all but forgotten. Scully, the main character, is a trade rider. He travels from one little pocket of civilization to the next, trading goods that he finds in shopping centers and malls under the ice."

Winter World #1, a full-colour, monthly, Baxter mini-series, ships September 22 and retails for \$1.75.

Xyr Introduces Multiple Ending Craze To Comics Graphic Novel Changes Each Time You Read It

The first multiple ending comic debuts when *Xyr*, a 48-page, full-colour, square-bound comic book, hits the stands in October. "These sorts of projects have done very successfully in bookstores," says distribution manager Sean Deming, who also edited *Xyr*. "It was about time someone did a comics story with multiple endings."

In *Xyr*, the reader makes a variety of choices for the lead character, each of which takes the story in a different direction. There are nine possible stories in the volume, but each begins with the disappearance of August Chiller, who sets off in search of the mystical paradise of Valcin. His wife calls on Xyr, the only being who can possibly save her husband.

"This has been the most difficult challenge I've faced as an editor," says Deming. Each scene must be carefully tailored so it fits into a variety of story continuities.

Xyr is a full-colour, 48-page, square-bound comic book. It retails for \$3.95 and ships October 27.

Prowler #3 Features "History" of Eclipsogram Pictures

Lobby Cards, Still Photos Bring Kragg's Story To Life

Michael H. Price, co-author with George Turner of *Forgotten Horrors* and writer of the 1940s *Prowler* back-up, has combined both his interest in motion picture scholarship and the bizarre world of Leo Kragg in *Prowler* #3. That issue features what purports to be an excerpt from *Neglected Gems of The Horror Cinema* by George Michaels, detailing the history of Kragg's involvement in film.

The fake book entry explains Leo Kragg's ownership of Eclipsogram Pictures and the series of motion pictures about the *Prowler* which were filmed in the Forties and Fifties. Also included are lobby cards, complete with photos from *On The Prowl*, the most successful *Prowler* film.

"We found an actor here in Ft. Worth, Bob Allen, who not only wears the *Prowler* costume well, but also looks remarkably like Graham Nolan's drawings of Leo," says Price. "We had the mask tailored to his face and decked him out in clothing fashionable in the early Forties. It wasn't until I compared him side by side with Graham Nolan's character sheets that I realized how striking a resemblance there was—the hairline, set of the jaw, the intense eyes, and what Chuck Dixon calls 'a mouthful of teeth.'"

Prowler #3, a 4Winds production, retails for \$1.75 and ships September 13.

Stig's #7 Last Issue

Templeton Decides To End Hit Series

Although its sales were solid and it was rapidly achieving cult status, *Stig's Inferno* has ended with issue #7. Acclaimed by many as one of the only worthwhile black and white humor comics, *Stig's* was a strong addition to Eclipse's Quality Black and White Graphics line, which published the last two issues of the book.

"For various personal reasons, I didn't think I could make it funny anymore," says Ty Templeton. Templeton co-created the book with Klaus Schoenefeld, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack last year. "I owed it to him (Stig) not to do it if I couldn't make it funny."

Publisher Dean Mullaney, who edited the book, counted it among his favorites, as did many in the Eclipse offices. "*Stig's* was just a brilliantly funny piece of work," says Mullaney. "I'm sorry Ty doesn't feel he can keep it up, but we all wish him luck in whatever he chooses to pursue."

Dr. Watchstop

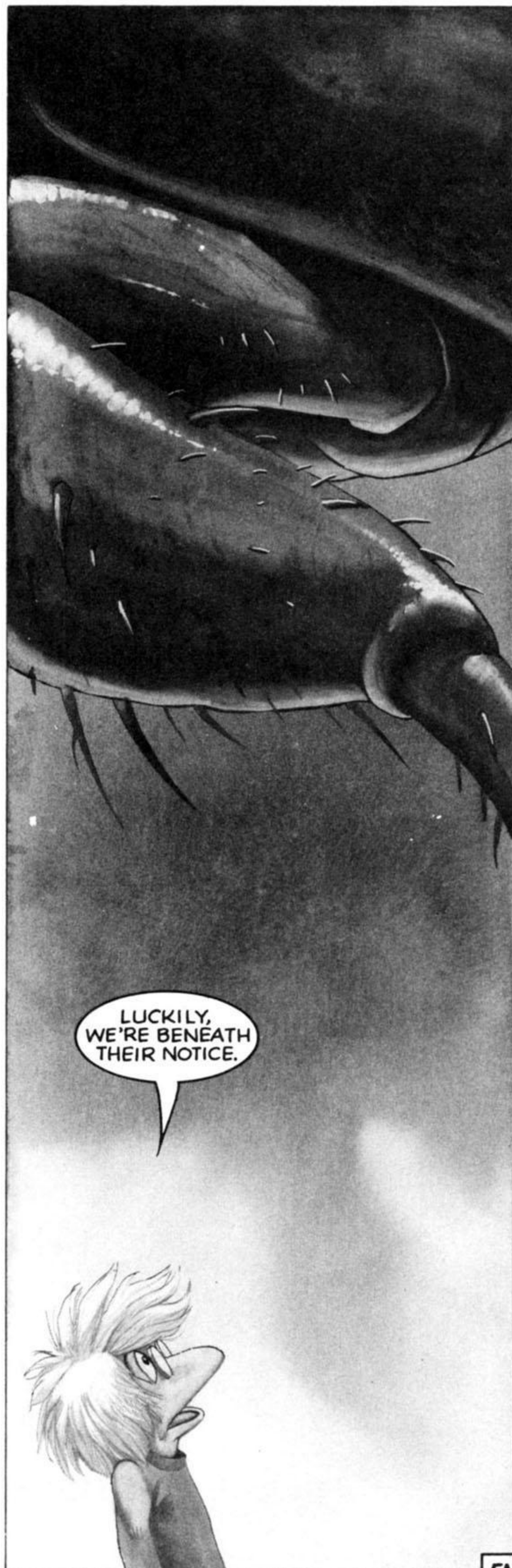
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